

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nakamura et al.
Appl. No.: 10/032,184
Conf. No.: 4924
Filed: December 21, 2001
Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TICKET
MANAGEMENT AND ELECTRONIC-TICKET-DISTRIBUTION
AUTHENTICATION
Art Unit: 3653
Examiner: Michael E. Butler
Docket No.: 112857-309

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO WITHDRAWN HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

Applicants are submitting herewith this Petition to Withdraw a Holding of Abandonment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.181(a). In the Notice of Abandonment dated July 18, 2006, the Patent Office alleged that Applicants failed to timely file a proper reply to the Office letter mailed on December 5, 2005. Further, the Patent Office alleged that no reply had been received. Applicants believe that the abandonment holding should be withdrawn as described in further detail below.

On January 23, 2006, Applicants did submit a Response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2005. The Response was submitted along with a Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile whereby it was certified that the Response along with the Certificate of Transmission was submitted by fax to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8300 on January 23, 2006. At that time, the above-referenced fax number was used for submitting documents by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A copy of Applicants' previously-filed Response along with the transmittal letter is attached herewith as Exhibit A. Further, Applicants are submitting herewith a facsimile transmission confirmation report further evidencing that the response along with the transmittal letter and certificate of transmission were received by facsimile at the Patent Office at the above-referenced fax number.

Based on at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that a reply to the Office Action dated December 5, 2005 was timely filed in the United States Patent and Trademark

Office as evidenced by the Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile (Exhibit A) and transmission confirmation report of same (Exhibit B) as previously discussed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this Petition be granted, and thus, the holding of abandonment for this case be withdrawn. In doing so, Applicants further request that Applicants' previously-submitted response (See, Exhibit A) be examined in due course.

If the Patent Office should have any questions regarding this Petition, Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned attorney be contacted directly and if deemed appropriate, by telephone in an effort to expedite any potential issues that may remain.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Thomas C. Basso
Reg. No. 46,541
Cust. No. 29175

Dated: August 4, 2006

EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): Nakamura et al.

Docket No.

112857-309

Application No.

10/032,184

Filing Date

December 21, 2001

Examiner

M. Butler

Group Art Unit

3653

Invention: **APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TICKET MANAGEMENT AND ELECTRONIC-TICKET-DISTRIBUTION AUTHENTICATION**

I hereby certify that this Transmittal Letter (1 pg.) and Response to Office Action (8 pgs.)

(Identify type of correspondence)

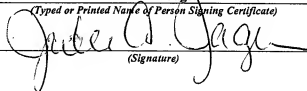
is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. 571-273-8300)

on January 23, 2006

(Date)

Julie A. Jager

(Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)



(Signature)

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.
112857-309

In Re Application Of: **Nakamura et al.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
10/032,184	December 21, 2001	M. Butler	29175	3653	4924

Title: **APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TICKET MANAGEMENT AND ELECTRONIC-TICKET-DISTRIBUTION AUTHENTICATION**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Response to Office Action (8 pgs.)

in the above identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **02-1818** as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.



Signature

Thomas C. Basso (46,541)
Cust. No. 29175

Dated: **January 23, 2006**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on

(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nakamura et al.
Appl. No.: 10/032,184
Conf. No.: 4924
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Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TICKET
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AUTHENTICATION
Art Unit: 3653
Examiner: Michael E. Butler
Docket No.: 112857-309

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2005, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic ticket management system comprising:
an event organizer apparatus for generating event information;
an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus for distributing electronic ticket information via Internet that authenticates a right to attend the event, said electronic information further including a plurality of attendee information;
an information storage chip for storing the electronic ticket information;
an electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information,

wherein the event organizer apparatus registers the generated event information in the electronic ticket platform center;

said electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus authenticates whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to a user of the information storage chip be receiving a request for distribution of the electronic ticket information from the user, and registers an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center as ticket issuing information; and

said electronic ticket platform center generates an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus, and performs ticket issuing processing for writing the electronic ticket information into the information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information, said ticket issuing information being registered in the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus based on the generated ticket information master, wherein the electronic ticket information written to the information storage chip is for a plurality of tickets for attending a specific event.

Claims 2-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for electronic ticket distribution authentication comprising:

- generating event information at an event organizer apparatus;
- registering generated event information in an electronic ticket platform center;
- receiving a request, at an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus, to distribute electronic ticket information via Internet concerning events from a user of an information storage chip, said electronic ticket information further including a plurality of attendee information;
- performing distribution authentication processing for determining whether the registered electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the requesting user;
- registering an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information as ticket issuing information;
- generating an electronic ticket information master and performs ticket issuing processing for writing electronic ticket information into the information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information, said ticket issuing information being registered in the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus based on the generated ticket information master, wherein the electronic ticket information written to the information storage chip is for a plurality of tickets for attending a specific event.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~An electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus~~
A method for electronic ticket distribution authentication according to claim 14, wherein an event organizer apparatus for planning an event manages an allocation ratio of the electronic ticket information.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~An electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus~~
A method for electronic ticket distribution authentication according to claim 14, wherein the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user is sent via a network.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~An electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus~~
A method for electronic ticket distribution authentication according to claim 14, wherein an electronic ticket information distribution store terminal is provided, and the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user is sent via the electronic ticket information distribution store terminal.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~An electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus~~
A method for electronic ticket distribution authentication according to claim 14, wherein the electronic ticket information includes user information concerning the user of the information storage chip.

Claims 19-51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (currently amended): An electronic ticket management system using an information storage chip for storing electronic ticket information which authenticates a right to attend a specific event, the electronic ticket management system comprising:

an electronic ticket information forming unit for forming event information unique to each event, and for generating electronic ticket information in correspondence with event information, said electronic ticket information forming unit further generating an electronic ticket information master based on the event information;

an electronic ticket information writer for writing the electronic ticket information into the information storage chip via Internet, said electronic ticket information further including a plurality of attendee information; and

an electronic ticket information reader installed at an event venue corresponding to the event information, wherein said ticket information reader performs distribution authentication processing for determining whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to a user of the information storage chip based on the generated electronic ticket information master, and registers an authentication result in the electronic ticket information writer as ticket issuing information, wherein the electronic ticket information written to the information storage chip is for a plurality of tickets for attending a specific event.

Claim 53-60 (canceled)

Claim 61 (previously presented): An event organizer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the event information further includes a seat master concerning seat information.

Claim 62 (previously presented): An event organizer apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the event information further includes a seat master concerning seat information.

Claim 63 (previously presented): An event organizer apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the event information further includes a seat master concerning seat information.

Claim 64 (new): An electronic ticket management system accordingly to claim 1, wherein the electronic ticket information written to or stored on the information storage chip is assignable to other information storage chips.

Claim 65 (new): A method for electronic ticket distribution authentication accordingly to claim 14, wherein the electronic ticket information written to or stored on the information storage chip is assignable to other information storage chips.

Claim 66 (new): An electronic ticket management system accordingly to claim 52, wherein the electronic ticket information written to or stored on the information storage chip is assignable to other information storage chips.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated December 5, 2005. Claims 1, 14-18, 52 and 61-63 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 14, 15-18 and 52 have been amended and claims 64-66 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by any of the amendments or claims proposed herein. Thus, entry and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

I. Response to Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1, 14-18, 52 and 61-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sehr (U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,976, hereafter "Sehr"). Additionally, claims 1, 14-18, 52 and 61-63 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Laval et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,173,209, hereafter "Laval") in view of Goldstein et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,216,227, hereafter "Goldstein"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

To expedite prosecution, the Applicants have herein amended independent claims 1, 14, and 52 to further distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. The claims have been amended to more particularly point out that the electronic ticket management system of the present inventions allows for multiple tickets for the same event to be issued to and stored on a single storage chip. Additionally, new claims 64-66 have been added to point out that the electronic ticket management system allows for any number of tickets purchased and stored on a storage chip to be assigned or reassigned to other storage chips.

More specifically, the present invention as recited in claims 1, 14, and 52 (as amended) is directed to systems, and a method for implementing an electronic ticket management system that, in pertinent part, utilizes an information storage chip for storing electronic ticket information that authenticates a right to attend a specific event. The user of the information storage chip can purchase one seat (i.e., pass), or a block of seats (i.e., passes) for a specific event. When purchasing a block of seats, a consecutive number of seats can be automatically allocated, and the purchased seats can be easily searched, added or deleted.

The present invention as recited in new claims 64-66 is directed to an electronic ticket management system that allows the user of the information storage chip to safely and reliably

assign any number of seats purchased and stored on the storage chip to other information storage chips.

Support for the features of the present invention noted above can be found at least on page 34, lines 20-23 and in Figs. 40-41 of the Applicants' application. Additionally, these features of the present invention are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

Sehr is directed to a system and method that allows the user of an electronic card to purchase a plurality of goods and services related to travel. The system and method in Sehr provides the convenience of using an electronic passenger card for transportation, identification, card-based payment, as well as for other travel-related applications and services. However, Sehr appears to fall short of the present invention for at least the following reasons.

Although the invention in Sehr allows for the purchase of multiple travel services (i.e., each service being considered a different event) using the same card, it only allows for the purchase of one seat or pass for each service or event. In other words, nothing in Sehr discloses that a single passenger card can be used to book more than one seat for a particular flight or more than one seat or pass for a particular travel-related service. To the contrary, Sehr discloses the use of biometric data for helping authenticate an individual holder of the passenger card, thereby suggesting one card per person or per itinerary. See, Sehr, col. 6, lines 52-61. Moreover, given the security concerns related to air travel, it is likely that the purchasing of multiple seats for a single flight using a single passenger card would be prohibited. For the same security reasons, it is likely that the assignment of purchased travel-related services stored on a passenger card would also be prohibited.

Accordingly, claims 1, 14 and 52 (as amended) and claims 64-66 (as added) are clearly distinguishable over Sehr. Likewise, claims 15-18 and 61-63 are also clearly distinguishable over Sehr based on their respective dependencies on claims 1, 14 and 52.

Laval is directed to the electronic management of admissions to attractions at, for example, an amusement park, which includes the use of an electronic pass or card. The invention in Laval provides a customer with a choice of standing in line for the attraction or having a spot reserved for admission later without standing in line. See, Laval, col. 3, lines 44-48. The customer uses the electronic pass or card to establish entitlement to access the attraction at the future time. Although Laval discloses the use of an electronic pass or card for the purchase

of services, the reference also specifically discloses that a user of the card is prevented from acquiring multiple reservations (i.e., passes) for the same attraction (i.e., a particular event). See, Laval, col. 3, lines 51-54. Moreover, nothing in Laval discloses, teaches or suggests the assignment of purchased reservations stored on the pass or card.

Goldstein is directed to multi-venue ticketing using a smart card. After a detailed review of Goldstein, the reference fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above in Laval to render obvious the present invention. Accordingly, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teachings of Laval and Goldstein, the combination still would not teach or suggest the features recited in claims 1, 14 and 52 (as amended) and claims 64-66 (as added).


Accordingly, claims 1, 14 and 52 (as amended) and claims 64-66 (as added) are clearly distinguishable over Laval in view of Goldstein. Likewise, claims 15-18 and 61-63 are also clearly distinguishable over Laval in view of Goldstein based on their respective dependencies on claims 1, 14 and 52.

II. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

BY



Thomas C. Basso
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Dated: January 23, 2006

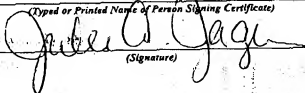
EXHIBIT B

** Transmit Conf. Report **

P.1

Jan 23 2006 15:24

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)			Docket No. 112857-309
Applicant(s): Nakamura et al.			
Application No. 10/032,184	Filing Date December 21, 2001	Examiner M. Butler	Group Art Unit 3653
Invention. APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TICKET MANAGEMENT AND ELECTRONIC-TICKET-DISTRIBUTION AUTHENTICATION			
I hereby certify that this <u>Transmittal Letter (1 pg.) and Response to Office Action (8 pgs.)</u> (Identify type of correspondence) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. <u>571-273-8300</u>) on <u>January 23, 2006</u> (Date)			
<div style="text-align: center;">Julie A. Jager (Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)  (Signature)</div>			

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.